

REMARKS

In the subject Office Action, claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lavery, Jr. et al. (US# 5,769,120) in view of Garvey et al. (US# 6,286,764). Claim 13 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 14-21 were allowed.

Applicants have canceled claim 13 and have amended claim 1 to include the limitations previously presented in claim 13. As such, the claims should now be in a condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the present amendments be accepted permitting the application to proceed to allowance.

It is believed that no fees are due with this reply. However, if a fee should be required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50/1039.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael D. Zaronias
Registration No. 54,564

Cook, Alex, McFarron, Manzo,
Cummings & Mehler, Ltd.
200 West Adams Street
Suite 2850
Chicago, Illinois 60606
312.236.8500